CALPEEK

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CAPITOL GAMES: PRO & ANTI PRINGLE FORCES CLASH AND BASH IN BIG GOP CAUCUS BATTLE.

Editor's note: Although the mainstream news media stayed away from this story about GOP Assembly Caucus infighting, it's the kind of stuff **Calpeek** insiders love. Here's our analysis on this latest round of Republican bloodletting which took place May 5th...

...There have been two rumors making the rounds in the Capitol for months: **1)** Demo Assemblyman Louis Caldera of L.A. will resign to accept a job with the Clinton Admin.; and **2)** Paso Robles GOP Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro finally has the votes to overthrow Curt Pringle as GOP Assembly Leader. Neither of these rumors has come true, but the Pringle vs. Bordonaro tussle escalated to the point that a GOP source told **Calpeek** that the May 5th caucus gathering was one of the *ugliest* in years...

...The renewed infighting flared on Friday, May 2nd, when rumors began to circulate that Bordonaro was very close to rounding up the 19 votes necessary to oust Pringle. Our sources believe Bordonaro had about 12-14 fairly solid votes, with another 5-6 soft votes. By the end of the caucus meeting on May 5, members voted 28-6 for a resolution which will see Pringle stepping down from his job 3 days after the Assembly passes a State Budget. So it wasn't a victory for either side, although the Pringle spin is that it was a win for him. An *uneasy truce* is how one source described the current situation to **Calpeek**...

...How nasty was the GOP Caucus meeting? Here's a little quiz: **1)** True or false: prior to the meeting, did a GOP member suggest that Bordonaro should NOT be leader because he is in a wheel chair? **2)** True or false: at the meeting, did a member loose his temper and say to Pringle *that the only thing standing between Pringle and jail is his Chief of Staff's silence*? (That's a reference to the 67th AD voter fraud trial, just getting underway in Orange Co. Pringle is not on trial and has denied any wrongdoing, but one of his top staffers, Jeff Flint, is an unindicted conspirator in this case)...

...Why all the pressure on Pringle to step down? Some members continue to blame him for the '96 losses. In addition, Pringle has stated he'll run for Controller in 1998 - and once a leader announces future plans, that person usually steps aside in order to avoid conflicts. Why is Pringle trying to hold on? On June 2nd the Prop. 208 restrictions on fundraising are *lifted* and thus Pringle, as GOP Leader, would be in a better position to raise big bucks for his Statewide run...

...FYI: In addition to Bordonaro, others who would like to replace Pringle include Bill Leonard of Upland; Keith Olberg of Victorville (Pringle's choice); and Jim Battin of Palm Desert. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR COULD HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS.

Editor's note: Even though Campaign '98 hasn't really even moved to the starting blocks, some **Calpeek** sources see the battle for CA Governor as having big implications for *Campaign 2000*. Here's our analysis...

...Calif., with its 54 electoral college votes (more after this next reapportionment), is perhaps the pivotal State in terms of Presidential politics. Calif. Attorney General Dan Lungren(R), while perhaps not looking past 1998, has probably thought about Campaign 2000 and what fate might hold for him IF he were Calif.'s next governor. Ditto U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein on the Demo side. For those students of presidential campaigns, in '84 DiFi was on Demo VP Walter Mondale's short list of running mates, while just this past year Lungren was on Bob Dole's short list for VP. So both DiFi & Lungren are no strangers when it comes to

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Potomac Fever & White House politics...

...Lungren, who will be 50 in September, would automatically be right up there with Colin Powell, Dan Quayle, Steve Forbes, Jack Kemp, U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, Elizabeth Dole, TX Gov. George W. Bush, NJ Gov. Christine Whitman and Lamar Alexander IF he were elected governor next year...

...IF Lungren is thinking past '98 (and we're not suggesting he is), then he has be very concerned about who his LG running mate will be. The ***key danger*** for Lungren is that voters (in an unpredictable OPEN primary) might select a weak LG Republican running mate - thus making it possible for a Demo to again capture this post. If there was any one thing which really upset Calif. Republicans about Gov. Pete Wilson's GOP presidential bid, it was the fact that if Wilson had been successful, he would have had to turn the State over to Demo LG Gray Davis. Lungren needs to make sure that this scenario doesn't happen to him in '98...

...As for DiFi, the most influential man in her life, her father, Dr. Leon Goldman, predicted she's be president. At 63, DiFi has to consider these questions: **1)** Is she interested in being on the ticket in 2000?; and **2)** If she runs for governor and loses to Lungren, does this kill her nationally? The answer to this question is **YES**, and if she were elected governor, she'd have the same potential LG problems that Lungren might have. Thus it might be smarter for her to stay in DC, where by all accounts she's highly regarded. If she stays put in the U.S. Senate, there'd be *no free ride* in 2000, but some sources think an Al Gore & DiFi ticket might look pretty good in four years. Stay tuned...

SPRING '97 ELECTIONS: CITY & COUNTY CONTESTS.
L.A. County voters not only face Measure E (dealing with a tax to keep firefighter & paramedics on the job), but also a library tax, Measure L. Measures E & L are collectively known as the **Books & Ladders** taxes. But not all county voters will get Measure L on their June 3rd ballot. This tax applies to those 11 cities and communities which have 44 county-run libraries. The library tax will replace a *special assessment district*. The group running the campaign to pass L is known as *The Cmt. to Save Our Libraries* and the committee co-chairs are County Library Comm. Fred Gaines and former Sup. Ed Edelman. The committee has hired consultant Fred Register of Pasadena to run the campaign. He has a good track record when it comes to library elections. The campaign has a $300,000 budget, but resources are tight and that figure might be high. There is one thing to note about Measure L: commercial property gets a break under this proposal. That might not sit well with single-family and condo homeowners. A 2/3rds vote is required. Stay tuned...

CALIF. DEMO COUNCIL SETS 45th ANNUAL MEETING.
The Calif. Demo Council(CDC) will hold its 45th annual convention May 16-18 at the Inn at the Park Hotel, Anaheim. For info (800)481-9356...

PART 12: 49er/SF CITY BOND DEAL PLAYS DEFENSE.
Editor's note: In Part XII of our ongoing series about ***public funding of sports facilities*** we'll focus on what the opponents of Measures D & F on the June 3rd S.F. ballot are up to. Here's our update...

...Total cost of the proposed new stadium for the S.F. 49ers (and adjoining shopping mall) is $535 million, with the city putting up $100 million in revenue bonds. Voters will decide on June 3rd if this is a good deal or not. The key element in the deal is the shopping mall: revenues from the mall are supposed to pay off the bonds, but if the mall doesn't catch on, there's a chance taxpayers *may* be stuck...

...In order to ease public fears about the deal, Mayor Willie Brown and top 49er officials unveiled a new agreement May 5th. However, D & F opponents claim the key sticking point of *who pays if the mall doesn't succeed* isn't clarified in this new document. And in fact the opponents of D & F have spent $10,000 to put up 2,000 signs all over the city which say: ***If They Build It, You Will Pay. No on D & F...***

...This is a drop in the bucket compared to what the YES side has spent ($700,000 so far) and will spend (sources say another $700,000 to $1 million in tv, direct mail, signs, phone banks, etc.). The NO side has a total of about $65,000 --- $50,000 from former campaign consultant Clint Reilly + another $15,000...

...The only polling we've heard of goes back to April 7-10, 600 voters (by Fairbank Maslin Maullin) which shows 54% NO vs. 36% YES, with the rest undecided. That's encouraging news for the NO side, but with all

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that money on the YES side, our sources are inclined to rate the battle a toss up for now, even though the YES side is still playing defense. However...

...FYI: The big news in S.F. this past week was about YES on D&F campaign consultant Jack Davis and his 50th birthday party. About 300 guests, including lots of city hall and political types, were grossed out by S&M and bondage exhibitions, plus a *Golden Shower*. The 49ers weren't happy campers, but refused to accept Davis' resignation. News of Davis' party is now nationwide and it's bad news for the 49ers. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY ELECTION: A LOW TURNOUT RUNOFF.

Editor's note: Now that the dust has settled on the April 8th L.A. City primary, the focus has turned to the only remaining battles in the June 3rd runoff: for the OPEN 11th Council District and 7 runoffs for spots on the Charter Reform Commission. The biggest problem facing candidates will be voter turnout. **Calpeek** sources except citywide turnout for this runoff to be no better than 12-14%. Here's our brief update...

☒ ***11th CD*** - In the primary, underdog candidate Georgia Mercer finished 1st with 41% and forced favorite Cindy Miscikowski into a runoff with a very aggressive, grassroots campaign. Miscikowski got 39% and trailed Mercer by about 800 votes. Now insiders rate this race as a *toss up*, but Mercer has the *momentum*. In a low turnout runoff, the keys are mail and a solid field operation. The Mercer team has hired Susan Burnside to direct the field operation and she's regarded as one of the best...

☒ ***Charter Commission Runoffs*** - Some changes in Mayor Richard Riordan's independent expenditure (IE) campaigns: consultant Bill Carrick will handle most of the IE campaigns, with Rick Taylor only involved in the IE campaign for 15th CD candidate Jerry Gaines (vs. Janice Hahn). Taylor will now take over the regular campaign for 6th CD charter reform candidate Chet Widom vs. Jimmy Woods-Gray. Consultant Steve Afriat will handle the other regular campaigns for Riordan endorsed candidates Rob Glushon in the 11th, Lorri Jean vs. Bennett Kayser in the 13th CD and Jerry Gaines in the 15th...

...All the runoffs are fairly hot, but the one insiders are talking about is the 11th CD, where runner-up Maureen Kindel has *endorsed her opponent* (Glushon) and is not waging a runoff campaign. Labor, which endorsed Kindel, is **not** thrilled at this turn of events. Another bit of news: Riordan's team offered to help 4th CD commission candidate Bill Weinberger against labor-backed Charley Mims, but Weinberger said *no thanks*. He'll remain totally independent. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: A FIRST LOOK AT DA ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: 56 of Calif.'s 58 counties will hold elections for County District Attorney in 1998. Here is our first look at DA races...

...In 1994, a number of incumbent DAs were defeated for reelection and overall there were about 15 new DAs in office after the general election. Among the incumbents who didn't survive '94 were longtime San Diego DA Edwin Miller & Sacto DA Steve White. In addition, longtime Alameda Co. DA Jack Meehan retired...

...What does '98 look like so far? On April 11th, Shasta Co. DA Dennis Sheehy retired after two terms. The Board of Supes has named McGregor W. Scott, a deputy DA from Contra Costa Co., as the new DA. The only other DA who will step down in '98 is Orange Co.'s Mike Capizzi, who is running in the GOP primary for AG. So far there are 2 challengers vying for Capizzi's job: Brian Brown, the deputy in charge of the DA's juvenile/gang unit (and the '96 CDAA Prosecutor of the Year); and O.C. Sup. Court Judge Anthony J. Rackauckas Jr...

...Two of the most visible 1st term DAs, Sacto Co.'s Jan Scully and San Diego Co.'s Paul Pfingst, don't appear to have major problems. In fact both are well regarded. If there is a DA who may have problems, it could be San Luis Obispo's Barry LaBarbera, who ran for a judicial post and lost...

...In terms of service, the DA with the most time on the job is L.H. "Buck" Gibbons of Inyo, who was elected in 1974. Next in line are Mike Bradbury of Ventura and Art Danner of Santa Cruz, both elected in '78. There are 5 DAs who were elected in '82: Ed Hunt of Fresno, Edward Jagels of Kern, Grover Trask of Riverside, James Fox of San Mateo and Carl Adams of Sutter. Stay tuned...

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CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS	
May 13	Redondo Beach city election.
May 16-18	45th Annual Convention, CA Democratic Council, Anaheim.
May 23- June 3	Congressional recess.
June 3	L.A. City runoff election; S.F. special election.
June 13-15	Assoc. of State Demo chairs summer meeting, Whitefish, MT.
June 20-22	G-7 Summit, Denver, CO.
June 22	DCCC Dinner in San Francisco.
July 26-28	50th Annual CA Broadcasters Assn. convention, Monterey, CA.
July 27	DCCC Dinner in L.A. w/Pres. Bill Clinton.
July 22-30	Nat'l Governor's Assn. meeting, Las Vegas.
Aug. 2-Sept. 2	Congressional recess.
Aug. 6-10	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
Sept. 12	CA Legislative session ends.
Nov. 16-19	IAPC Annual Conf., Buenos Aires.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Riggs Vs. Thompson in '98*** - Popular Demo State Sen. Mike Thompson of Santa Rosa has formed an exploratory committee so that he can challenge U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs(R) in Calif.'s 1st CD in '98. Thompson has already lined up these endorsements: Demo U.S. Reps. Vic Fazio, Lynn Woolsey, Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo, Gary Condit and Howard Berman. The '96 Demo candidate, Michela Alioto,wants a rematch with Riggs, but after running a somewhat sloppy campaign (and getting beat 50% to 43% in a Demo year), sources believe she should focus on another office...

■ ***Conservatives Steamed in O.C.*** - Orange Co. hardliners are steamed again. This time their anger is aimed at the powers who named Stan Oftelie as president of the Orange Co. Business Council. By all accounts, Oftelie did an excellent job as head of the O.C. Transit Authority and the only reason for the screaming by hardliners is because Oftelie is a registered Democrat...

■ ***No Taxes on the Internet*** - The State Bd. of Equalization has gone on record supporting federal legislation by U.S. Rep. Chris Cox(R-Orange Co.) to create a national moratorium on new state & local taxes on the Internet. A resolution by the BOE asks the CA Legislature to support Cox's *Internet Freedom Act*...

L.A.'S PORT TOPIC OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FORUM.
Larry Keller, exec. director of the Port of Los Angeles, will address members of the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, May 29, Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info ☎ Emma Schafer (213)627-7427...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Campaign consultant Bob Stiens moves to a new office at 800 N. Second Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006. ☎(818)357-9962. E-mail: rksstrat@earthlink.net...

● Campaign consultants Lang, Murakawa & Wong move to The Biltmore Tower, 500 S. Grand Ave., Ste. 1710, L.A. 90071. New ☎(213)239-6688.. E-mail: LMW@pacbell.net...

● P. Anthony Thomas has joined So. Calif. Edison as regional mgr. of P/A for the cities of Carson, Compton, Lynwood, Paramount & So. Gate...

● Mark Barnhill, asst. managing editor of the L.A. Daily News, gets a VP's job at Fleishman-Hillard PR in L.A...

● Former CRP executive director John Allan Peschong is now working for Dan Quayle in Phoenix as the former VP's key organizer for Campaign 2000...

● Smart Campaigns (John Regan based in Tahoe City)has opened an East Coast office with partner Cara Brown at 4669 Kenmore Dr., NW, Washington DC 20007. ☎(202)337-0011...

● Larry Fisher, former president/chair of Braun Ketchum PR, has joined the Issues Management Network as a Sr. Counselor. Fisher will work out of the S.F. Bay area. ☎(510)335-0997...

● Attorney Coby King has left the Manatt law firm to become a VP at L.A.-based Rogers & Associates. ☎(310)552-6922...

● Evelyn Jerome has joined the CA Abortion & Reproductive Rights Action League/South as Associate Director...

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